



Above: Rube Walker, left, Met coach, and Joe Torre, manager, at idle St. Petersburg, Fla., camp. Below: John Pacella leaves the camp.



United Press International

Left: Yanks' Rich Gosage training in Fort Lauderdale. Above: Marvin Miller, the players' representative.

# Baseball Exhibition Strike In Effect Amid Confusion

By MURRAY CHASS

Amid confusion arising from an unexpected decision by their union, the major league baseball players yesterday began an eight-day strike of exhibition games while most continued to work out in their teams' spring training camps.

Marvin Miller, the players' labor leader, spent most of the day on the telephone receiving reports and answering questions from the player representatives, who 24 hours earlier had voted in Dallas to strike the remaining exhibition games, then open the season on time next Wednesday and strike again, if necessary, May 23.

Could the players work out in the spring camps, which the owners had left open? And, if so, should the players permit supervision by their managers and coaches? In both cases, Miller assured the player representatives, the answer was yes. Nonetheless, many of the players left camp.

Ray Grebey, the owners' chief negotiator, also spent hours on the telephone, speaking with club owners and other executives about their position on the players' action.

Miller and Grebey are scheduled to meet at 2 P.M. today in Manhattan with Kenneth E. Moffett, a Federal mediator, who will try to get the two sides moving in negotiations for a basic agreement to replace the one that expired last Dec. 31.

"In my experience," the mediator

said by telephone from his office in Washington, "lots of times after a strike vote is taken and a deadline set, bargaining does start because of the pressures."

There was, however, a chance that the two sides would go to today's meeting in a mood even less constructive than that in which they have spent the last four months — the players' negotiators because they feel the owners have wasted important time in the talks, and the owners' representatives because of the decision by the executive board of the Major League Baseball Players Association to cancel the remaining spring exhibitions.

## Angels' Bavasi Disturbed

Buzzie Bavasi, executive vice president of the California Angels, who is not among the owners' negotiators, was perhaps the executive most disturbed over the players' exhibition strike. The cancellation of the games will cost the Angels a large sum of money.

A three-game exhibition series between the Angels and the Los Angeles Dodgers had been scheduled for this weekend, including night games in Anaheim, Calif., on Friday and Saturday. Bavasi estimated yesterday that the exhibition strike would cost the Angels "a little over \$400,000," money the two home games would have produced. Each team, he said, keeps all the receipts from its home games, and the Angels had a total advance sale of

70,000 and expected a sellout of more than 40,000 for each game.

That kind of economic effect was precisely what the 28-man executive board of the players association had in mind when it voted in Dallas to stage a split strike.

## Different View Emerged

Because the players on some teams had voted to walk out immediately and stay out until an agreement ended the contract impasse — which primarily concerns the owners' demands for increased compensation to a team that loses a player through free agency — it had seemed most likely that the board would vote for that kind of strike.

However, Miller said that a different view emerged when a negotiating subcommittee made up of himself and 10 players met Tuesday morning before the board's meeting.

"We wanted to show that we were capable of sticking together," said Reggie Jackson, the New York Yankee player representative, "and try to take some money from the war chest that they've been stockpiling for a strike."

The player representatives did not want the owners to profit from the eight exhibition games scheduled in major league parks during the next week. Furthermore, they wanted a regular-season walkout to come at a time when it would hurt the owners most. That time, they concluded, was not April.

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Associated Press

Tom Seaver of the Reds talking with Bill Fischer, a coach, at the Cincinnati camp in Tampa. Players worked out there.

# Strike Takes Effect

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when the schedule is dotted with off days and likely rainouts, but late May, just before Memorial Day, when crowds begin to grow.

## **Threw Off Owners' Planning**

"I didn't really have to make any recommendation," Miller said. "The consensus that came out of the morning meeting was what was presented to and discussed by the whole board."

The executive board also knew that, by delaying a regular-season strike until late May, it would be assuring each of the players association's members three paychecks — on April 15, May 1 and May 15. Major league ballplayers are generally paid only during the regular season, on the first and the 15th of the month.

Also, the players, anticipating that the owners were expecting an April strike, wanted to throw off the owners' planning. They apparently succeeded, at least temporarily; owners were confused at first about how to react.

Bavasi, for example, said he had received instructions from the player relations committee, of which Grebey is the director, to close the Angels' camp in Palm Springs, Calif.

"Then they changed their mind," Bavasi said. "Some clubs probably decided it would be in their best interest to open the camps to the players. But by that time all of our players had left."

The owners' player relations committee announced guidelines late Tuesday night concerning camp workouts. Camps would remain open, Grebey said, but players would not receive their weekly spring training allowances. Nor would the costs of transpor-

tation to opening-game locales be paid for players who left their teams' camps.

Miller saw nothing wrong with the players' remaining in their camps, as long as the workouts were supervised by the regular people. However, he viewed the withholding of expense money as a negative element in the negotiations.

"For a couple hundred dollars," he said, "you're going to anger players and make a settlement that much harder. On the other hand, if they're still trying to provoke a strike, their action makes sense."

Some observers wondered whether the players would be willing to walk out on May 23 if an agreement were not reached by then. If a player or a team is off to a good start, they reason, there might be some reluctance to strike.

However, no additional vote is needed. The executive board's Dallas decision would take effect midnight May 22. Furthermore, the players are convinced that they will not be deterred by whatever will have happened in the opening weeks of the season.

"I don't care," said Larry Bowa, the Philadelphia Phillies shortstop, "if I'm hitting .040 or .840. If nothing is ironed out by then, we're gone."